**Minutes from the WVSU General Faculty Meeting on Wednesday, November 18, 2020**

**Video Conference Call using GoogleMeet at 2:00 pm**

*The following meeting was conducted by video conference call using GoogleMeet, due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.*

Attendance: Mohammad Bhuiyan, Azam Bejou, Zachary Fitchner, Leighann Davidson, Umesh Reddy, Sonya Armstrong, Jessica Barnes-Pietruszynski, Reidun Ovrebo, Mohammad Siddique, Lindsey Good, Jeff Pietruszynski, Billy Peyton, Shannon McGhee, Michael Anderson, Richard Ford, Kerri Steele, Edward Lomax, Mark Wilson, Barbara Liedl, Carol Taylor-Johnson, Marek Krasnansky, Thomas Kiddie, Karen Anderson, Ami Smith, Anne McConnell, Sarah Kelly, Steve Gilliland, Sean Collins, Emily Waugh, Barbara Ladner, Sharon Warren Cook, Elisha M. Lewis

Tae Park, Becky Francis, Michael Fultz, Naveed Zaman, Robin Tabor, Deborah Williams, J. Paige Carney, Mary Sizemore, Patricia Wilson, Andrew Schedl, Billie Hauser, Helen Southall, Deborah Williams, David Huber, Ami Smith, Vincent Smith, Lan Wang, Alonda Wylie, Aaron Settle, Kellie Toledo

The meeting was called to order by J. Barnes-Pietruszynski at 2:01 pm.

Revisions/Suggestions to the Agenda

S. Armstrong moved and E. Lewis seconded the approval of the agenda.

J. Pietruszynski moved and M. Fultz seconded the minutes with any changes sent to L. Davidson.

**PROVOST WARREN-COOK**

The Provost introduced herself to the faculty and spoke about her background. Provost Cook indicated she had received a warm welcome at WVSU and will approach professional development issues surrounding technology and COVID issues. Provost Cook will focus on enrollment, retention, graduate rates, graduate programs, minor curriculum, assessment and accreditation issues for programs. She will also work on national spotlight for programs and is interested in internships, student research, mentorship, etc. Provost Cook wants us to see her as a faculty ambassador and move the university forward.

C. Taylor-Johnson said a problem she sees as a writing teacher is procrastination and unsecure feelings from the students. C. Taylor-Johnson indicated she is concerned with undeserved communities when the students come to the college level. C. Taylor-Johnson said she feels the university needs more support and structures in place because she is not sure where to send them during the pandemic. C. Taylor-Johnson said we need a better infrastructure to move the students forward.

Provost Cook said she understands and feels the frustration. She said students sometimes have different issues, but she does want to explore the options at WVSU, such as writing research center and review curricular for prerequisites. Provost Cook indicated we could focus on some extra things in Freshman Experience. Students are not prepared and some faculty are not with this pandemic. She indicated we need to figure out how to support students, but she will support student success, especially for student writing. Provost Cook indicated she is working on a strategic plan to forward the land-grant mission to better serve underserve populations and students.

S. Armstrong indicated that there are students who are unprepared in Math. S. Armstrong indicated students are underprepared and taking online classes, so we need to look at how we get students support, especially with this COVID semester. Many students did not sign up for online courses, so we need to look at how we support these online students during the COVID issues. Provost Cook discussed some ways we could reach students in all academic areas, such as tutor.com. There are grants available to assist with tutoring and student support, but not sure exactly what is out there right now, but Provost Cook will work to ensure students will have support.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski announced that there are several support services here, but we could always use more. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski indicated that the Chat has several options, but people can email her and she can send these in a Google Doc. Provost Cook said we will have her support to try and address these issues, so she will begin evaluation and gather feedback from faculty for resources.

S. Armstrong talked about the small class sizes, but if we want students to graduate in a timely manner, we need to offer more courses. S. Armstrong stated students are left behind because courses are not being offered and they are not left behind. Provost Cook said she is working with the chairs and deans to look at course sequencing and ensure that students do not have to take an extra semester, especially looking over the data. Provost Cook also indicated that we could use course substitutions or equivalencies in other departments that may work for the course requirement.

B. Ladner announced that it is her perception that we are functioning under adequate standards for students, so we need stronger IT support for students. Provost Cook said she agreed and is working on trying to determine the specifics, but she welcomes all help and suggestions on how to support faculty and students. Provost Cook said she has discovered some grants and is currently working with Dr. Thomas Kiddie and HEPC to get the support and quality of service needed for our students, align resources and advocate for more resources.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski indicated that classrooms need more technology since most students are coming from classrooms with more technology than they are receiving in college. Provost Cook said the students we attract need to be retained and supported so they can be successful. This starts in the classroom and continues through engagement and advising.

**VIRTUAL GRADUATION**

Commencement is Saturday, November 21, 2020 at 10:00 am streaming on YouTube. The students who are graduating would be happy to see everyone logged in.

**ACCOMMODATIONS**

Faculty need to work with students who are quarantined or positive. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski announced we do not want to encourage students to come to class if they are quarantined and we need to make accommodations for these students. Any questions regarding accommodations can e directed to Michael Casey, who can provide guidance.

**CARES COMMITTEE**

Faculty Senate passed a motion to establish a Cares Committee to deal with mental health for faculty. Faculty are dealing with extra work, stress, etc. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked for volunteers who want to assist to send her an email. L. Good is going to assist with some of the wellness activities and resources.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski announced that workshops are happening the week after Thanksgiving. Title IX, on-line, technology, pedagogy, etc. topics. Academic Affairs will be sending an email.

**FACULTY REPRENSEATIVE R & D**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said the faculty representative is usually chosen for R & D, but the executive committee decided voting would be equivalent to how the representative for the Board of Governors is selected. The election will be in May.

M. Fultz was chosen by the chair of R & D. Whoever is elected will be a recommendation to the chair of the board of R & D.

**ACF**

B. Ladner indicated that the ACF is meeting Friday. They had been waiting to determine how the election would go, so she will gather more information at that meeting.

**BOG**

The BOG meeting is Friday, F. Vaughan sent out information yesterday. The meeting will be ZOOM, so faculty should login.

**FACULTY FOCUS**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski met with Provost Cook and President Pride, who indicated they wanted faculty to focus on retention and persistence, which is very important for the university.

**ONLINE PLATFORM**

T. Kiddie announced that the university will not continue with Wiley after December 31. E-Think will be our new platform. T. Kiddie said Bluefield State uses them and they come highly recommended. He likes their approach with the learning management system. Their approach bacillary gives the customer full access, which we did not have with Learning House. They will bring everything back in house including the 8 week courses. All the recruiting and advising will be done in house. E-Think will only provide the Moodle platform. T. Kiddie said the timeline is problematic. E-Think agreed that we will not have to take down our Moodle System until December 4. Once December 4 comes, we will put Wiley system in maintenance mode and the data will be copied and brought up on the new system. Once that happens, they will begin testing. T. Kiddie said they asked Wiley for backup of the database, and Dr. Pride had a meeting with Wiley and they seemed to be willing to work with us but we were concerned because we owe them money. President Pride has a meeting tomorrow with their President to make arrangements. T. Kiddie and his staff are working on getting the Spring courses loaded and ready so we do not lose time. We have 250 WEB 50, 80 and 100 courses to get up and running. E-Think believes if they do a copy and restore, most will not notice a difference because it is the same Moodle platform.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski announced that the platform will be the same, just the server will be different.

T. Kiddie said that Moodle can be configured differently, but with copying the customized files with the pics and content, it should be very similar. He said he is always skeptical with migration because there are always things he did not anticipate, but there is a few course that are brand new so those courses will not be available in December. But we can break the rule and work on things throughout the semester.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski asked if faculty should backup anything. T. Kiddie said no because it would be on Wiley’s platform, but you could copy it onto a Word document. T. Kiddie said once Wiley gives us the backup, it will bring everything over since 2016, so it is doable since it is a Moodle to Moodle.

M. Bhuiyan asked about the shells for Spring 2021 semester. T. Kiddie said they would be available in January.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski thanked Tom Kiddie from everyone for all the work and support he has given the faculty. This would have been difficult without him.

T. Kiddie said the Fellow Yellow Jacket was a very good idea. There were only 2 faculty members involved, but it was a real morale booster. T. Kiddie said it really helped him. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she must have missed the email because she does not recall seeing anything. T. Kiddie said he got some really nice gifts.

T. Kiddie also said he would not be doing any professional development because of the time crunch, but there will be new training in Spring.

**COVID UPDATES**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said the reopening plan should be released this week. President Pride said it would be very similar to the Fall semester. Everyone will be required to provide a negative test. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said everyone must have a negative time before coming to campus and details on where to go and who to submit the information to will be coming soon. The screening stations are gone, so everyone should be using Campus Clear App, but faculty will need to use this before coming to campus daily. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski will send out instructions on how to download/login to the app.

**BUDGET**

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski announced that President Pride outlined this in the forum and sent out an email regarding the phases. During Phase I, there was a reduction in spending, positions, hiring freeze, travel restrictions, etc. They will assess the savings of Phase I before going into Phase II. A. Settle said when he saw the letter, he is anticipating this happening, so he asked J. Barnes-Pietruszynski if this would be permanent or temporary. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said this would be a temporary measure to get the finances back in order. She indicated the finances were bad and had been for years, but it would only be temporary. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said she pointed out that the faculty are the lowest paid in the state, so President Pride said it would be the last thing she would do. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said once the finances are under control, after COVID, President Pride wanted to look at faculty pay. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski told her how faculty felt about the extra work with no additional pay and President Pride indicated should understood.

T. Kiddie asked how P-Cards and Purchase Orders would save $3,000,000. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said nothing is being ordered, but she did indicate that most items had been ordered before the purchase orders had been submitted.

J. Barnes-Pietruszynski indicated that President Pride also brought up some faculty who had been in administration and went back to being faculty without a pay cut, so that was an issue.

M. Bhuiyan asked what is the sliding scale? Is it quantified? J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said it would be a sliding scale, but she does not have the details, only what was released in the information from President Pride.

**OTHER MATTERS**

C. Taylor- Johnson asked about enrollment and whether they were standards. J. Barnes-Pietruszynski said there was an enrollment strategy that is going to be presented at the BOG meeting, but she was not sure.

S. Armstrong asked J. Barnes-Pietruszynski if we could do a recognition of fallen faculty members in January.

B. Ladner asked about recognizing S. Woodard and C. Byers. S. Armstrong suggested we should recognize S. Woodard and welcome him back to the faculty.

January 7, 2021 will be the day for faculty meetings.

A. Settle announced that professional development week would include an assessment area. He indicated it would serve as the assessment meeting for coordinators.

S. Armstrong moved to adjourn and C. Taylor-Johnson seconded the motion at 3:36 pm.